

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method in a network of data processing systems for optimizing the efficiency with which a serial electronic publication is distributed to subscribers, said method comprising:

electronically transmitting a first issue of a serial electronic publication to a receiving device of a subscriber, wherein said step of transmitting said first issue comprises transmitting a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) cookie to said subscriber with said first issue;

determining whether said first issue has been received and opened by [[by]] a user of the subscriber's receiving device, wherein said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened comprises receiving a status update from said client data processing system indicating that said first issue has been opened by a user of the data processing system, and wherein said status update is a cookie response from said subscriber indicating that client software has been utilized to open said first issue; and

electronically transmitting a second issue of said serial electronic publication to said subscriber only after determining that said first issue has been opened.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said step of electronically transmitting said issue comprises electronically transmitting said issue to a client data processing system associated with said subscriber; and

~~said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened comprises receiving a status update from said client data processing system indicating that said first issue has been opened by a user of the data processing system.~~

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

said method further comprises storing a subscriber status in accordance with said status update, in response to receiving said status update from said client; and

said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened is performed with reference to said subscriber status, such that said subscriber status enables said determination to be performed without communicating with said subscriber after said first issue has been transmitted.

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AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method in a network of data processing systems for optimizing the efficiency with which a serial electronic publication is distributed to subscribers, said method comprising:

electronically transmitting a first issue of a serial electronic publication to a receiving device of a subscriber, wherein said step of transmitting said first issue comprises transmitting a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) cookie to said subscriber with said first issue;

determining whether said first issue has been received and opened by [[by]] a user of the subscriber's receiving device, wherein said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened comprises receiving a status update from said client data processing system indicating that said first issue has been opened by a user of the data processing system, and wherein said status update is a cookie response from said subscriber indicating that client software has been utilized to open said first issue; and

electronically transmitting a second issue of said serial electronic publication to said subscriber only after determining that said first issue has been opened.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

said step of electronically transmitting said issue comprises electronically transmitting said issue to a client data processing system associated with said subscriber; and

~~said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened comprises receiving a status update from said client data processing system indicating that said first issue has been opened by a user of the data processing system.~~

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

said method further comprises storing a subscriber status in accordance with said status update, in response to receiving said status update from said client; and

said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened is performed with reference to said subscriber status, such that said subscriber status enables said determination to be performed without communicating with said subscriber after said first issue has been transmitted.

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4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein:
said method further comprises determining that a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached; and
said step of determining whether said first issue has been opened is performed in response to said determination that said publication time has been reached.
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of receiving said status update comprises receiving, at a server data processing system, a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) function for storing said subscriber status.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining that a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached; and
automatically transmitting a status request to said subscriber in response to said determination that said publication time has been reached;
wherein said step of receiving said status update comprises receiving, from said subscriber, a status reply that corresponds to said status request and comprises said status update.
8. (currently amended) A data processing system with facilities for transmitting a serial electronic publication to subscribers efficiently, said data processing system comprising:
a push engine that electronically transmits a first issue of a serial electronic publication to a receiving device of a subscriber, wherein said push engine transmits a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) cookie to said subscriber with said first issue;
a server data processing system that includes an input module that receives a status update from said subscriber; and
a status manager that determines whether said first issue has been received and opened by a user of said subscriber's receiving device, and that allows said push engine to transmit a second issue to said subscriber only after determining that said first issue has been opened, wherein said status manager determines whether said first issue has been opened by referencing said status

update, wherein further said status update comprises a cookie response received from said subscriber and said cookie response corresponds to said HTTP cookie and indicates that client software has been utilized to open said first issue.

9. (currently amended) The data processing system of claim 8, wherein:
~~said data processing system comprises a server data processing system;~~
said push engine transmits said first issue to said subscriber by transmitting said first issue to a client data processing system associated with said subscriber;
~~said server data processing system includes an input module that receives a status update from said subscriber; and~~
~~said status manager determines whether said first issue has been opened by referencing said status update.~~
10. (previously presented) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein:
said server data processing system comprises storage for storing a subscriber status that corresponds to said status update in response to receipt of said status update; and
said push engine determines whether said first issue has been opened by reference to said subscriber status, such that said subscriber status enables said determination to be performed without communicating with said subscriber after said first issue has been transmitted.
11. (previously presented) The data processing system of claim 10, wherein:
said server data processing system includes a timer that indicates when a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached; and
said push engine determines whether said first issue has been opened in response to said indication of said timer.
12. (canceled)
13. (previously presented) The data processing system of claim 10, wherein said status update comprises a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) function, received at said server data processing system, for storing said subscriber status at said server data processing system.

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14. (previously presented) The data processing system of claim 9, wherein:

said server data processing system includes a timer that indicates when a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached;

said status manager automatically transmits a status request to said subscriber in response to said indication of said timer;

said input module receives a status reply from said subscriber that corresponds to said status request; and

said status reply comprises said status update.

15. (currently amended) A program product for efficiently transmitting a serial electronic publication from a server data processing system to subscribers, said program product comprising:

a push engine that electronically transmits a first issue of a serial electronic publication from a server data processing system to a receiving device of a subscriber, wherein said push engine transmits a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) cookie to said subscriber with said first issue;

an input module that receives a status update from said subscriber; and

a status manager that determines whether said first issue has been opened by said subscriber at said receiving device by reference to said status update, and that allows said push engine to transmit a second issue to said subscriber only after determining that said first issue has been received and opened, wherein said status update comprises a cookie response received from said subscriber, and said cookie response corresponds to said HTTP cookie and indicates that client software has been utilized to open said first issue; and

a computer usable medium encoding said push engine, input module, and said status manager.

16. (currently amended) The program product of claim 15, wherein:

said push engine transmits said first issue to said subscriber by transmitting said first issue to a client data processing system associated with said subscriber[[:]]

~~said computer usable medium also encodes an input module that receives a status update from said subscriber; and~~

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~~said status manager determines whether said first issue has been opened by reference to said status update.~~

17. (previously presented) The program product of claim 16, wherein:

said computer usable medium also encodes instructions for allocating storage in said server data processing system for storing a subscriber status that corresponds to said status update;

said status manager stores said subscriber status in said storage in response to receipt of said status update; and

said push engine determines whether said first issue has been opened by reference to said subscriber status, such that said subscriber status enables said determination to be performed without communicating with said subscriber after said first issue has been transmitted.

18. (previously presented) The program product of claim 17, wherein:

said server data processing system includes a timer that indicates when a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached; and

said push engine determines whether said first issue has been opened in response to said indication of said timer.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The program product of claim 17, wherein said status update comprises a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) function, received at said server data processing system, for storing said subscriber status at said server data processing system.

21. (previously presented) The program product of claim 20, wherein:

said server data processing system includes a timer that indicates when a publication time for initiating distribution of an issue of said serial electronic publication has been reached;

said status manager automatically transmits a status request to said subscriber in response to said indication of said timer;

said input module receives a status reply from said subscriber that corresponds to said status request; and
said status reply comprises said status update.